

Emergency Medicine Scope of Practice Guidelines

All Physician Assistants working in Emergency Medicine will encounter a wide variety of non acute, urgent and emergent patient complaints and conditions. Given the environment which these specialty PAs train and work, with proximity to their supervising physicians, all Emergency Physician Assistants should demonstrate competency in the initial evaluation of all patient complaints. Emergency Physician Assistants work within a team module, and all patient care and evaluation done by the Physician Assistant is under the direct supervision of the Physician and should be viewed as an extension of the Emergency Physician. The Emergency Physician should be aware of any Urgent and Emergent patients being treated by the Physician Assistant.

Patient conditions which will be evaluated and managed by the Emergency Physician Assistant.

Resuscitative Problems and Techniques

- Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Advanced Airway Support -- including oral airway, nasopharyngeal airway, oral tracheal airway
- Vascular Access
- Acid-Base Problems
- Blood Gases Interpretation
- Fluid and Electrolyte Problems
- Disturbances of Cardiac Rhythm and Conduction

Acute Signs and Symptoms in Adults

- Chest Pain
- Dyspnea, Hypoxia, Hypercapnia
- Hemorrhagic Shock
- Septic Shock
- Anaphylaxis and Acute Allergic Reactions
- Cyanosis
- Syncope
- Abdominal Pain
- Gastrointestinal Bleeding
- Coma and Altered States of Consciousness

Acute Signs and Symptoms in Children

- Fever
- Fluid and Electrolyte Therapy
- Upper Respiratory Emergencies
- Hypoglycemia in children
- Altered Mental Status in Children
- Syncope and Breath Holding

Emergency Wound Management

- Evaluation of Wounds
- Local and Regional Anesthetic for Wound Repair
- Wound Preparation
- Methods of Wound Closure
- Technical Considerations in the Repair of Difficult Wounds
- Simple uncomplicated facial lacerations
- Hand and Fingertip Injuries
- Puncture Wounds and Animal Bites
- Post Repair Wound Care
- Marine Wounds and Injuries

Cardiovascular Diseases

- Myocardial Ischemia and Infarction (initial evaluation and management under the direct supervision of the Supervising physician)
- Heart Failure and Pulmonary Edema
- Endocarditis
- Hypertensive Urgency
- Acute Extremity Ischemia and Thrombophlebitis

Pulmonary Emergencies

- Bacterial Pneumonias
- Viral and Mycoplasma Pneumonias
- Pneumonia in Immunocompromised Patients
- Aspiration Pneumonia
- Tuberculosis
- Spontaneous and Iatrogenic Pneumothorax
- Hemoptysis
- Acute Asthma in Adults
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Digestive Disorders

- Swallowed Foreign Bodies
- Peptic Ulcer Disease
- Perforated Viscus
- Acute Appendicitis
- Intestinal Obstruction
- Hernia in Adults and Children
- Ileitis and Colitis
- Diverticular Disease
- Anorectal Disorders
- Diarrhea
- Food Poisoning
- Cholecystitis and Biliary Colic
- Acute Jaundice and Hepatitis
- Acute Pancreatitis

Complications of General and Urological Surgery
Liver Failure

Renal and Genitourinary Disorders

Urinary Tract Infections
Male Genital Problems
Chronic Dialysis Patients and their Problems
Renal Stone Disease

Gynecology and Obstetrics

Gynecological Emergencies
Vulvovaginitis
Problems in Pregnancy
Common Complications of Gynecological Procedures

Pediatrics

Common Neonatal Problems
Otitis and Pharyngitis in Children
Skin and Soft Tissue Infections
Bacteremia, Sepsis, and Meningitis in Children
Viral and Bacterial Pneumonias in Children
Pediatric Urinary Tract Infections and Vulvovaginitis
Asthma and Bronchiolitis
Seizures in Children
Gastroenteritis
Pediatric Abdominal Emergencies
Diabetes in Children
Exanthems
Musculoskeletal Disorders in Children

Infectious Diseases and Allergy

Sexually Transmitted Disease
Toxic Shock Syndrome
HIV Infection and AIDS
Tick Borne Diseases

Environmental Injuries

Frostbite and Cold Related Injuries
Hypothermia
Heat Emergencies
Insect and Spider Bites
Reptile Bites and Scorpion Bites
Trauma and Envenomations from Marine Fauna
Thermal Burns
Chemical Burns
Electrical and Lightning Injuries

Carbon Monoxide Poisonings
Exposure to Toxic Agents
Poisonous Plants and Mushrooms

Endocrine Emergencies

Hypoglycemia
Diabetic Ketoacidosis
Alcoholic Ketoacidosis
Thyroid Storm

Neurological Disorders

Headache and Facial Pain
Management of Stroke
Vertigo and Dizziness
Seizures in Adults
Meningitis, Encephalitis, and Brain Abscess

Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat Disorders and Facial Trauma

Ocular Emergencies
Sinusitis
Maxillofacial Injuries
Dental Pain and Emergencies
Oral Abscesses

Skin and Soft Tissue Disorders

Dermatitis
Erythema Multiforme
Cutaneous Abscesses
Soft Tissue Infections

Trauma

Initial Evaluation of the Trauma Patient
Head Injury
Spinal Injury
Penetrating Trauma

Fractures and Dislocations

Hand and Wrist Injuries
Elbow and Forearm Injuries
Shoulder and Humerus Injuries
Pelvis, Hip, and Femur Injuries
Knee, Leg, Ankle, and Foot Injuries

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Neck Pain

Thoracic and Lumbar Pain
Shoulder Pain
Overuse Syndromes
Muscle Ruptures
Compartment Syndromes
Rheumatic Disorders
Infectious and Inflammatory Hand Disorders
Soft Tissue Disorders of the Foot

Psychosocial Disorders

Emergency Assessment of Psychological Patients
Panic Disorder
Conversion Reaction

Abuse and Assault

Child Abuse
Male and Female Sexual Assault
Domestic Violence
Elder Abuse

Procedures Performed by the Emergency Physician Assistant

Administration of Local and Digital Anesthesia
Complicated and Uncomplicated Repair of Lacerations
Removal of Foreign Bodies from Eyes, Ears, Nose, Skin, and Wounds
Trepination of Subungual Hematomas
Incision and Drainage of Abscesses
Urethral Catheterization
Placement of Peripheral Venous Access
*Placement of Central Lines [with proof of competency]
Placement of Thoracostomy
*Endotracheal Intubation [with proof of competency]
ACLS
Arterial Puncture
Venipuncture
*Lumbar Puncture [with proof of competency]
Application of Splints
Arthrocentesis